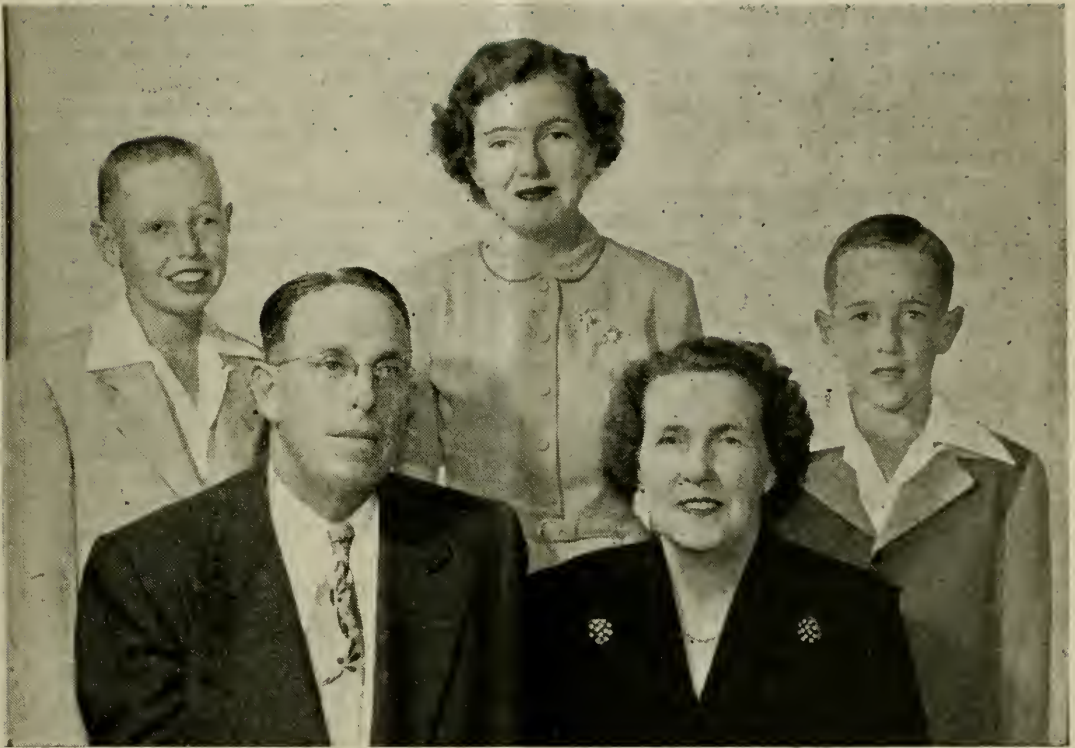


CUMORAH'S

Southern Messenger



Duncan Family

VOL. 28

JANUARY, 1953

No. 1

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

Mission President's Message

CHRISTMAS DAY dawned most beautifully in Cape Town this year. The weather was ideal, being bright and without the seasonal South-easter. Table Mountain stood out majestically with a tablecloth of clouds slowly rolling over.

Amid this glorious setting, and in the still early hours, many members of the Church, including the Wright family, other members of the Mission Presidency, Cape missionaries and various members of the Mowbray Branch arose early, not only to see what Father Christmas had brought, but more especially to greet President and Sister Duncan and family. As the Winchester Castle entered Table Bay Docks the group was on hand to wave and exchange greetings with our new Mission President.

Through the medium of Cumorah's Southern Messenger all officers and members of the South African Mission join at this time in extending a warm and sincere welcome to President and Sister LeRoy H. Duncan and their fine children, Elna, Rulon and Dale. We are confident that these good people will be very happy and successful in their labours here, and we wish them joy and happiness in their administration.

President Duncan served in the South African Mission during 1927-29 and so he is well acquainted with many aspects of this country and the work ahead of him. Soon after his arrival he was looking for familiar landmarks and pointing out things of interest to his wife and children.

In his home community in Utah, President Duncan served for eight years as Bishop of his Ward, and for seven years as Stake President. He has enjoyed a rich experience as an Administrator of Church Affairs, and comes to us with a wonderful L.D.S. background.

Sister Duncan has always been an active and faithful member of the Church. She has worked as a teacher in many organizations and as a member of two Stake Primary Boards. However, like many other good women in the Church, probably her greatest contribution has been in supporting and assisting her busy husband in filling his assignments and positions of responsibility.

Elna, Rulon and Dale look forward with keen anticipation to the experiences they will enjoy in the Mission Field. They are all spiritually, mentally and physically alert children who will make valuable contributions in their sphere of activity here.

A reception was held at Cumorah on December 27th to honour our new leaders. Members and friends in the Cape District called and were able to personally meet and visit with the Duncan family.

President and Sister Duncan were called and set apart by the Prophets of God to preside over the South African Mission as personal representatives of the First Presidency. Let us all sustain them, not only with our uplifted hands but also with our love, confidence, co-operation and in a spirit to follow them and support them in all their decisions.

Pres. EVAN P. WRIGHT.

Vol. 28 No. 1

Cumorah's
Southern Messenger

JANUARY 1953

Editor: Evan P. Wright
Assoc. Editor: Jack E. Dahl

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Subscription rates: 5/- per year.
Overseas: \$1.

In case of change of address
notify mission office immediately.

The "C.S.M." is published
monthly in South Africa by the
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints.
Phone 6-3334.

"Cumorah," Main and Grove
Roads, Mowbray, C.P.
Union of South Africa.



TOBACCO COMPANY IS SUED FOR FALSE ADVERTISING. — New York. — The Federal Trade Commission filed suit today in Federal Court to enjoin the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co. from disseminating "False Advertisements" in connection with one of its products, a brand of cigarettes.

F.T.C. is seeking a preliminary injunction "in the interests of the public" to restrain the company from advertising that Chesterfield cigarettes "are manufactured in such a manner as to prevent irritation to the nose, throat and accessory organs of the smokers," which the F.T.C. contends is not a fact.

STREET MEETING STOPS TRAFFIC IN KOKOMO, IND. — Because street meetings had not been held for years in this city, Elder Richard S. Fox, supervising elder of the North Indiana District of the Great Lakes Mission, decided that the missionaries would try their luck with one street meeting.

Following their experimental meeting on September 20, he wrote:

"We distributed 273 copies of 'Joseph Smith Tells His Own Story', 33 copies of 'Mr. Durrant of Salt Lake City' were sold; hundreds of 'Rays of Living Light' were given away, three persons asked for baptism; 12 persons promised to attend our church services, and about 15 persons asked that the Fort Wayne elders call on them and explain further the Church principles.

"Half the police force was in town trying to keep the traffic moving. We were right at the main bus stop in town, and sometimes there would be six buses stopped for five to ten

minutes because of the traffic jams caused by curious people. The meeting lasted two hours. "We are going to try some more of them!"

TIN CAN BANKS STORE ERA SUBSCRIPTION FUND. — Springville: A fund-raising project is under way in an effort to have an Improvement Era subscription in every home by Thanksgiving.

Under the direction of W. R. Eddington, drive chairman, a small "tin can" savings bank has been placed in every home.

Each family is asked to place at least fifty cents per week in the bank, and at the end of November the savings will be called for and replaced with a subscription to the "Era," according to Elder Eddington.

The tin can replicas are embossed with a coloured picture of Thomas Jefferson handing the Declaration of Independence to John Hancock and were donated to the drive by the American Can Co. Elder Eddington is president of the Utah Cannery Association and was instrumental in securing the banks for the magazine drive.

L.D.S. SAILORS, FRIENDS HOLD SHIP MEETINGS. — Cannes, France: Eleven members of the Church and four investigators have been holding weekly meetings aboard the cruiser, the U.S.S. Baltimore, since it was commissioned a year ago at the Bremerton navy yard.

The meetings have been held under the direction of Fairon J. Smith, who was set apart at Tacoma soon after the group began holding its meetings. Counsellors in the group organ-

(Continued on Page 8)

Seek Ye Out of the Best Books

By Elder Dale Prince



The measure of time once again marks the passing of another year, and the time for making new resolutions is placed before us. But wait! What happened to the resolutions we made last year. Did our expectations fade from before our eyes, and leave us on the same old track? Yes! I'm afraid many of our good intentions proved fruitless. Our time upon the earth is precious and we should never allow our minds to dwell upon things which will later be of no value to us.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,
And the man that getteth understanding.

For the merchandise of it is better
than the merchandise of silver,
And the gain thereof than fine gold.
(Proverbs 3 : 13-14.)

The Lord has told us to: search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me. (John 5 : 39.) We have been commanded to search the scriptures, and there is no better way of keeping our thoughts pure than to read the scriptures. When we sit down to relax for a few minutes do we read the scriptures or some other educational literature, or are we guilty of reading that which degrades and debases the human mind. This latter type of literature is all too prevalent in Latter-day Saint homes. The Improvement Era has a new slogan: "Read Truth—Not

Trash." We should all make it our slogan and join with the church in the all-out war against the trash which is flooding the book stands today.

The Lord has commanded us in these days . . . seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith . . . and establish a house, even a house of God. (D. & C. 88 : 118-119.) Let us take inventory of our house, of ourselves. Does our house comply with all of the above requirements?

Firstly we have been asked to get a knowledge of the Gospel principles. It is through gaining knowledge and intelligently applying it that we can gain salvation in the Kingdom of our Father. We are to teach each other: our husbands, wives, and children.

We have never been confined to read the scriptures only. The Lord says "The Best Books" are where we gain our knowledge. Any piece of literary work which uplifts our thoughts could be classed as good.

We should all keep in our minds the M.I.A. motto found in the Doctrine and Covenants 93 : 36, "The Glory of God is Intelligence." The field is not limited to one subject, as we know the Gospel of Jesus Christ includes all truth no matter where it is found. "Teach ye

(Continued on Page 5)

Elder Widtsoe, 80, Succumbs to Illness in Salt Lake City

Elder John A. Widtsoe of the Council of the Twelve of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and noted educator and scientist, died recently at the family home in Salt Lake City of uremia. He was 80 years old last January.

A feeling of great loss at the passing of Elder Widtsoe and concurrent praise for his outstanding career were echoed Saturday in the words of Utah's leaders in religious, civic, educational, political and other fields.

PRES. DAVID O. MCKAY FOR THE FIRST PRESIDENCY:

"On behalf of the First Presidency I wish to say that in the passing of Elder John A. Widtsoe there comes to a close a notable earthly career, full of achievement and devoted service to mankind. The Church will now miss one of its ablest advocates, the State one of its most prominent educators, the Nation a leader and researcher in the conservation of its natural resources.

"Elder Widtsoe was ever kind and considerate, of an even temperament, loyal to his loved ones, to duty and to God. His testimony of the truth of the Gospel was unwavering. We valued his

friendship. We shall miss his sound judgment in our Church deliberations.

"May his loved ones find comfort in the thought that their departed husband and father is happy now in the association of his son, Marcel, and other loved ones over There; and in the assurance that he has received the welcome plaudit, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord,' from his Saviour, whom he has served most honourably."

PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH for the Council of the Twelve:

"With his family and with the membership of the Church, the Council of the Twelve are sad in the passing of Elder John A. Widtsoe.

"We have lost a wonderful man, companion, counsellor, brother and associate. Elder Widtsoe was true to every trust, and for it he was beloved by his council associates and all the members of the Church.

"We mourn with his family and with the people of the Church and nation that his turn to be called home has come, and we extend to them our deepest sympathy."

(Continued from Page 4)

diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand.

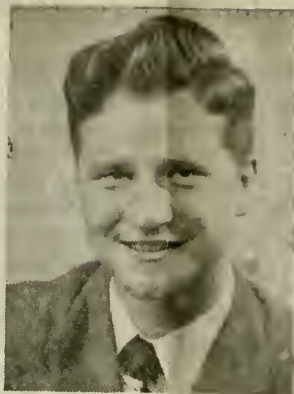
"Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and perplexities of nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms." (D. & C. 88 : 78-79.)

Here the Lord points out some of the fields which we are able to follow: astronomy, farming, minerology, geology, history, current events, prophecies, domestic and foreign policies, geography

and languages of other nations. We are not expected to gain a degree in each of the foregoing studies, but we should have a good knowledge of each of them.

We have been told that whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life will rise with us in the Resurrection. If you were to die tomorrow would you be ashamed of the number of degrading books you have read in the past year? Would you be ashamed of the few hours that you have studied the scriptures? The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is noted for its high educational standards. Are you among those who help to raise this standard, or do you help to drag the church standards down?

We should resolve that during the coming year we will truly seek learning out of the best books, and Read Truth — Not Trash.



Elder Richard B. Murray

Yours, The New Year

By Elder Richard B. Murray

Yes, here we stand on the threshold of a bright and shiny New Year, a year of promise, a year of hope — hope for peace, love, joy and happiness. Perhaps at this time of making resolutions, and in hopeful expectancy to the future, we might stop for a moment just to analyze what this year could mean to us as members of the Church of Jesus Christ. The signs of the Saviour's coming are rapidly being fulfilled before our very eyes. Are we prepared for His coming? We have been baptized, it is true. Baptism is the Gate into the Kingdom of God. If you were driving into the City of God, would you stop at the gate, examine it, drive through, and then immediately take the first road out of town, or would you drive into the heart of that city and become an active citizen in it. We are citizens of that city, and this New Year is ours to do with entirely as we please. This year may be spent in search of pleasures of this world, or we may build upon the light of a better hope in the life to come. We are fortunate to have the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness and to live in this wonderful day of the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. We have blessings and opportunities which mankind in ages past was denied. We have a peaceful land in which to live. Being able to worship

according to the dictates of our own consciences, and being able to prove our love, gratitude and devotion to our Heavenly Father are only a few of the many opportunities and blessings bestowed upon us. Yet we have many frailties of the flesh which weaken our efforts to serve Him. In this coming year let us remember that "each one is the architect of his own fate, and he is unfortunate indeed who will try to build up himself without the inspiration of God, without realizing that he grows from within and not from without." Let us apply the words of Alma to our petty faults and strive diligently to overcome them:

"And now behold, I say unto you my brethren, if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?"

Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins?

Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, if ye are not ye are not
(Continued on Page 8)

Happiness and the New Year

By President David O. McKay

Few of us, perhaps, stop to consider the inner implications of the happiness we hope the New Year will bring us. The secret of happiness lies within each of us, side by side with our resolutions and desires. It never comes from without. It cannot be stolen; it cannot be purchased. It is above price. It is true that wealth and friends and material success may make it the brighter when it is already shining within, but when it is not in the heart, all outward contributions are like paint and powder on the sallow cheek, the mere semblance of the thing desired.

"Nae treasures, nor pleasures,
Could make us happy lang;
The heart ay's the part ay
That makes us right or wrang."

One source of happiness springs from the realization of having accomplished something worth while. Misery springs from the realization of having failed to accomplish something worth while. The accomplishing of a fixed determination in the quest for truth and nobility of soul always produces happiness. Failure and vacillation always brings corresponding unhappiness. One is like the godly sorrow that worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; the other, like the sorrow of the world that worketh death.

Too many are not willing to pay the price of a happy New Year. They drift along aimlessly, hoping that peace and comfort will come to them as does the sunshine on a summer day. They forget that rain, hail, snow, and the biting frost of winter come in the same way. He who would possess happiness must pay the price of effort. "It is one of the laws of life that each acquisition has its cost." A muscle can be developed only by physical activity. Spiritual growth comes only by spiritual endeavour. And happiness is realized only through righteous desires and worthy accomplishments.

What sublime peace, what infinite power must have filled Christ's soul when, toward the close of his earthly mission, he could say, "I have overcome the world!" Oh,

how great the distance between the heights of his sublimity, and the depths of the degraded soul, drifting in the slime and filth of indulgence, blindly thinking, if he thinks at all, that happiness is allied with physical gratifications!

True happiness is found in living the Christlike life—on Monday, as well as on Sunday. He who is virtuous only at intervals proves that his pretended virtue is but a sham. Such a person lacks sincerity, the foundation of a true character, without which happiness is impossible. He who is seeking for happiness alone seldom finds it, but he who lives, that is, who loses himself, to give happiness to others, finds that a double portion has come to himself.

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints carries with it the responsibility to overcome temptation, to battle error, to improve the mind, and to develop ones spirit until it comes to the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Habits of intemperance and of sensual pleasure should have been buried in the waters of baptism. What folly to permit them to return when one realizes that not happiness but misery is allied with indulgence in sin!

Truly the happiest man is he who not only resolves, but also succeeds, with the help of the Lord, in adding to his "faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge;

"And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness;

"And to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to making your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fail."

(Continued on Page 8)

HAPPINESS AND THE NEW YEAR

(Continued)

"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:5-11).

Undoubtedly somewhere on the scroll that the New Year brings, there will be made marks of disappointment, discouragement, difficulty, perhaps sorrow but we

shall try to meet these with unfaltering determination, relying upon God to strengthen us in weakness, to give us fortitude in trial. Thus overcoming what we can and bearing bravely what we must, we shall experience the joy of mastery akin to that which Jesus felt when he said:

"... be ye of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

YOURS, THE NEW YEAR

(Continued from Page 6)

prepared to meet God. Behold, ye must prepare quickly: for the Kingdom of Heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.

Behold, I say is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? I say unto you that such an one is not prepared; and I would that he should prepare quickly for the hour is close at hand and he knoweth not when the time shall come; for such an one is not found guiltless.

And again I say unto you is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions? Woe unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent or he cannot be saved." (Alma 5:26-31.)

At this time let us keep our eyes to the future, redoubling our efforts in the service of the Lord. Let us not look back on our weaknesses and mistakes of the past. In the words of William Young Elliot:

"Live in terms of your strong points. Magnify them. Let your weaknesses shrivel up and die from lack of nourishment."

Forget about your imperfections of the past. With your achievements build upon the foundation of the Gospel for the future. As our code of life we should adopt the attitude of the Prophet Nephi:

"I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandment unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the things which he commandeth them." (Nephi 3:7.)

"Let us all press on in the work of the Lord." In this New Year let us resolve to perform our duties cheerfully and freely, to attend our meetings: Sunday School, Sacrament Meeting, M.I.A., Primary, Relief Society — to build up and add to the discussions and activities whole-heartedly. Those of us who are officers and teachers in the Auxiliaries, leaders in the Branches, Branch Teachers, or who have any duties whatsoever, should put our hearts into the work remembering that, "if you make your job important it is quite likely to return the favour."

This wonderful gospel is a way of life. It is a set of ideals which, when followed, can bring the fullness of love, joy and happiness into the lives of all people it comes in contact with. This gospel will serve as a chart of our path to the blessings of the eternities. As Carl Schurtz has said: "Ideas are like stars. **** Like the seafaring man on a desert of waters you choose them for your guides and by following them reach your destiny."

May these things be our achievements during 1953 I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD —Continued.

ization are David G. Cotterell and Gerald G. Morgan.

The group has been studying the gospel, using the Anderson missionary plan as its text.

Some of the many places that the ship and its crew have visited are Panama, Cuba, Gibraltar, Italy, France, Turkey, Greece, and Sicily. They expect to return to the United States soon.

Recipe

CREAM PUFFS

By Sister Jean D. Wright

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or shortening
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 cup flour
- 4 eggs

Method:

Add boiling water to butter and bring to a boil. Then stir in flour thoroughly and leave until mixture falls away from sides of pan. Remove from fire and let cool slightly. Add eggs one at a time, beating each one well before adding the next one. Drop by spoonfuls on greased pan two inches apart. Shape in circle with centre higher.

Cook for 20 minutes at 450 degrees, then for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove tops with a sharp knife and fill with vanilla custard or ice cream or flavoured whipped cream.

COOKING TIMES AND TEMPERATURES

Type of Meat.	Cooking Time (minutes per lb.).	Oven Temperature.	Internal Temperature of Meat.
Beef, less tender cuts (roasted)	45-50	225-250 F.	135 F. (Rare)
	55-60		150 F. (Medium)
	60-70		160 F. (Well done)
Beef, tender cuts	18-20	300 F.	140 F. (Rare)
	20-25		155 F. (Medium)
	27-30		165 F. (Well done)
Chicken: Roasting	35-45	300 F.	185 F.
Stewing	60-70		185 F.
Duck, young	25-30	300 F.	185 F.
Ham: Home cured	25-30	300 F.	165-170 F.
Tenderized	20-25	300 F.	150-155 F.
Lamb: Leg	25-30	300 F.	155-160 F.
Shoulder	40-45	275 F.	155-160 F.
Liver, uncut	15-20	300 F.	145-160 F.
Mutton, leg or shoulder	60-70	225-250 F.	180-185 F.
Port Roast*	35-40	300 F.	165-170 F.
Rabbit	30-35	300 F.	180 F.
Spareribs	30-35	300 F.	180-185 F.
Turkey, Large	15-18	300 F.	180-185 F.
Small	20-25	300 F.	180-185 F.
Veal: Standing Roast	40-45	275 F.	180-185 F.
Rolled Roast	45-50	275 F.	180-185 F.

Use figures for shorter cooking time if roast is large (over 4 lb.), contains much bone, has been frozen and thawed, is flat, or is stuffed.

* Pork is not safe to eat unless well done.

Arrivals and Departures



ELDER LOUIS K. FALCK—was honourably released from his missionary labours on December 2, 1952 and sailed for home via East Coast on the "Africa". He embarked from Cape Town.

ELDER GERALD E. HULBERT—was honorably released from his missionary labours on December 10, 1952 and sailed for home via East Coast on the "Africa". He embarked from Beira.

ELDER LOUIS K. FALCK—has served in the Cape District, Strand, Luanshya, Springs, and Port Elizabeth where he laboured as District President of the Port Elizabeth District and Branch President of the Port Elizabeth Branch for a short time.

ELDER GERALD E. HULBERT—has served in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Mowbray Cape, Sea Point, Port Elizabeth where he served as Branch and District President of the Port Elizabeth Branch and District, and Bloemfontein where he laboured as Supervising Elder, Branch and District President in the Bloemfontein Branch and District.

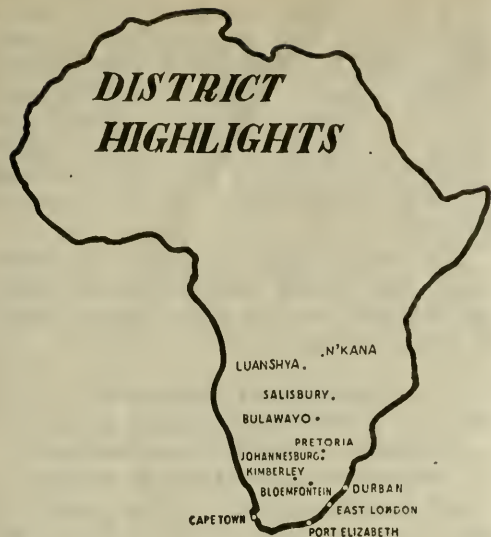
ARRIVALS

ELDERS ORVAL J. BIRKS from Nampa, Idaho, U.S.A. Elder Charles E. Mercer from Lehi, Utah, U.S.A., and Elder Charles M. Sessions from Layton, Utah, U.S.A. arrived aboard the —Edinburgh Castle on December 18, 1952.

ELDER BIRKS has been assigned to labour with Elder Lowell D. Wood, in Durban, Natal.

ELDER MERCER has been assigned to labour with Elder Ronald B. Clark, in Bloemfontein, O.F.S.

ELDER SESSIONS has been assigned to labour with Elder Richard B. Murray in the Transvaal.



BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Ron. B. Clark,
29 Parfitt Ave., Bloemfontein.

Reported by Elder Ronald B. Clark

The Bloemfontein delegates had a safe return after a very pleasant and enlightening week at Cape Town, where they attended the leadership convention. The wonderful convention spirit which returned with the delegates has already made itself manifest in the branch.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the parents and grandparents of Leslie Justus van Rooyen, who died after being here on earth with us for only two short months. The funeral was held on Thursday, December 11th.

The Wrench family have decided it is their turn for a holiday. They have taken a motor trip to Cape Town and will be gone for a month. We hope they have a pleasant time. Before they left we had a Christmas supper at the Daubney home. We had over thirty in attendance and all seemed to have had a good time even though we did resort to a few square dances.

We miss Elder Hulbert, and we can visualize his smiling face as he wends his way home through Mombasa, Port

Aden, Naples and the many other points of interest he intended to visit.

We are happy to have Elder Stockdale with us, and we hope he enjoys his stay here.

Our hearts go out to each of you, and we hope the sweet convention spirit which we enjoy will also fill your branches and your homes. We wish the blessings of our Heavenly Father upon you all for the coming year.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Wayne J. Medenhall, 52 Jarvis Road, E.L.

Reported by Brother Clarence E. Krull

The activities in the East London Branch have been very much the same for the past few months. Things were very much brightened by the Christmas Tree Party held December 13th, at the home of Brother and Sister Melvin Jubber. Everyone really enjoyed the afternoon. The highlight was, of course, the arrival of Father Christmas.

President and Sister Wright passed through East London on Friday, December 12, aboard the Athlone Castle. We were very happy to see them both once again.

We are happy to have Elder Mendenhall with us and hope he will enjoy his labours in East London.

We in East London wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Branch President: H. Hugo, 51 Athlone Avenue, Strubenvale, Springs.

Reported by Mavis E. Louw

The Gospel Message Class organised a bio evening to augment the Sunday School Christmas Fund. It turned out a great success, and a lot of thanks is due to Brother Arthur Gadd for showing his comedies which the children enjoyed very much. Also to Elder Bullock for showing his interesting pictures taken on his journey to South Africa.

The next event was also organised by the Gospel Message Class, a swimming party at the Daggafontein mine, where Brother and Sister Louw live. The unexpected number of forty adults and children really enjoyed the evening.

We are very happy to welcome into our branch as a member of the church

Brother Ronald Duncan. Ronald was baptized by Elder Johnson and confirmed by Bro. I. C. Louw on Wednesday evening, December 17th. Brother Duncan has found a soft spot in the hearts of the members of the branch, and we give thanks to the Lord for his conversion, and we know that he will find joy and contentment in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On Friday the 19th of December, the children all gathered at the home of Brother and Sister Troskie to welcome Father Christmas. Heralded as one of the finest parties ever held in our Branch. Eats have always been a traditional success of any party in Springs, and this was no exception.

Both the Christmas Sunday School and Sacrament Meeting services were very good. Those taking part did exceptionally well, and Elders Johnson and Bullock, our evening speakers, delivered a fitting message.

Our congratulations to Brother Charlie Jubber Jnr. and his wife on the arrival of a third daughter.

As we are about to go into a new year we pray that the members of the Church throughout the world may also be possessed with a renewed spirit of determination to live closer to the Lord, and show to the world what can be achieved through obedience to the teachings of the Greatest Teacher of all.

DURBAN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Lowell D. Wood,
21 Bulwer Road, Durban, Natal.

Reported by Sister Joyce Wahlburn

We're certainly happy to have our Convention Delegates back with us once more. Their brimful of tales about their wonderful fortnight, and their new life and spirit gained at convention will greatly benefit our Branch.

Another successful cake sale was held on the 30th of November in the Jimmy Green Gardens.

Members of the Branch spent a very pleasant evening with Brother and Sister Henning on the occasion of Vic's birthday on the 3rd of December.

Conference time has come and gone in the Branch once again and was as ever a Spiritual Feast for all who attended the meetings. We were privileged to have President and Sister

Wright in attendance at all three meetings, and to hear the words of counsel and advice given by these good Saints.

The M.I.A. wound up their social year with a most successful Progressive Dinner on December 16th. The sisters really excelled, much to our satisfaction, in the preparation of the various courses.

We would like to convey to Sister Bosse and family our deepest sympathy in the loss of her son, Harry Jubber of East London.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Brother Daniel A. Cherrett, 14 Serpentine, Pinelands.

Reported by Beatrice E. Smith

By the time this goes to print, the Christmas season will be over and the Mowbray Branch, in hoping that the Saints in Southern Africa have had a wonderful Christmas, also wish to send you their love and hearty good wishes for a glorious 1953.

Another convention is now behind us, and a very happy occasion it was for the Cape. To have so many delegates from the other Branches was a rare treat, and all of us were happy to make the acquaintance of so many wonderful people. And so we say good-bye to those delegates from the far corners of our land who have been with us during the ten days of the finest experience that comes to the Latter-day Saints in this country. We have to thank all those who have made the Convention possible and who have contributed so much to its outstanding success, and we should all be fully resolved to put into practise the counsels that have been given us during this time.

We are pleased to have Sister Johanna Smith back in our midst, after her long stay in Durban.

It has also been pleasant to meet Brother and Sister Perry and their infant daughter, who are spending a holiday at the Cape. We hope the South-easter did not entirely spoil their vacation.

We are sorry to report that Mr. George Page, husband of Sister Blanche Page, has been in hospital for treatment, and we pray that he may be restored to his usual good health.

It is good to see Sheila Butt at services

after her short stay in St. Joseph's Sanatorium, and we trust that she is now feeling the full benefit of the treatment that she has been receiving.

The return of President and Sister Wright from their coastal trip was very welcome to all of us. We hope they managed to get a short rest in between the calls at various branches en route.

The M.I.A. held a picnic outing to Crown Forest on the Day of the Covenant. All attendants joined in the swimming, eating and games, and despite sunburn, the picnickers declared that it was a "grand outing."

The first of a series of parties was that given by the Relief Society on December 18th. The guest of honour was Sister Jean Wright, who was crowned during the evening as "Queen of Christmas, 1952." "Merry Christmas," daughter of Santa Claus, handed out gifts to all the guests. The Relief Society sisters showed everybody that they really do know how to have a jolly time.

Congratulations to Sister Jean Behrens and her new husband, Erik Birk, who were married on December 20th. Mr. Birk and Sister Jean will make their home at Vredehoek, and we hope to see them very often at our meetings.

Visitors from Bloemfontein are the Wrench family. They are enjoying the Cape season.

A special programme was arranged by the Sunday School on the 21st of December. The carols that were chosen for the singing put everyone into the right frame of mind for Christmas. Those taking part on the programme did their parts very well, and made us better realise the true meaning of Christmas.

To the young fry there is one party that means a deal more than any other (or all the others put together). On the 21st of December, the Recreation Hall was filled to overflowing with excited little children and also with their parents who had come to see them enjoy themselves. A very good programme was prepared and delivered by excellent performers. Santa Claus arrived a few minutes after the telegram was read. There were toys and sweets for every tiny mite in the hall. Our gratitude to the Jones family grows with each function, and a deal of thanks

goes to these fine people along with the thanks to Brother and Sister Shelver for having made this party such a jolly one.

The M.I.A. held theirs on December 23rd. Christmas carols led by Elder Holman started the party off in a spirit of joy, and games conducted by Brother Gordon Terblanche gave everyone plenty of exercise. Father Christmas arrived with a baseball bat over his shoulder, but didn't have any occasion to use it. Presents were given to all attending. Refreshments and a short spell of dancing put an end to these festivities.

These parties are a good index of the way in which the Mowbray Branch members are going to enjoy their Christmas celebrations, and we trust that our members in other parts of this country have had as fine a time as we have had.

Right now we are all anxiously waiting the arrival of President Duncan, who is arriving on Christmas Day. We extend to him and his family a hearty welcome to the South African Mission.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Kay L. Crabtree, 17 Van Praagh Ave., Salisbury.

Reported by Elder Byron Y. Low

A very enjoyable time was had by all who attended the Children's Christmas Party. Games, a lovely lunch which consisted of all the rolls, salads, cake and ice-cream they could eat, the arrival of Father Christmas and the presents given to each child, all joined hands in making this party a great success. We wish to thank all those who helped in any way to make the party such a jolly affair. Especially do we wish to acknowledge the efforts of Brother Hugh Hodgkiss for directing the whole affair. Also our thanks goes to Sister King, Sister Maxwell, Sister Gordon and Sister Rickson for their donations and support.

We were very sorry to say good-bye to Sister Schults upon her departure from us. We will miss her constant support and inspiration, and we pray the Lord's choicest blessings will attend her always.

TRANSVAAL DISTRICT

District President: Izak C. Louw,
P.O. Box 1, Daggafontein.

RAMAH BRANCH

Reported by Mary Millan Stark

The Ramah Sunday School was most aptly reminded of the words of the Saviour when he said "Suffer little children to come unto Me" as two dear little babies were brought to Sunday School this month to receive a name and a blessing. Brother and Sister Hutton's daughter received the name of Andrea Rose, and Brother and Sister George Ganter Jnr.'s son was named George Paul. It is the earnest prayer of all that the beautiful blessings bestowed upon these children will strengthen them throughout their lives.

The Primary Mother, Sister Thelma Ninow and her Counsellors are to be congratulated on the successful and inspiring programme which they produced at the Sacrament Service on the first Sunday of the month. Sisters Margaret Kelly and Nora Newell, as Counsellors, assisted in teaching the children the songs from the Primary Song Book, and the talks given and Scriptures quoted all dealt with the Primary ideals.

At a Springs-Ramah Baptismal Service held on 17th December, Lorraine van der Westhuizen was baptized by Brother Hans Rohde and confirmed by Elder Manning, and Hilda Wallace was baptised by Elder Manning and confirmed by Brother Norman G. Muir. These sisters have been regular Mutual attenders and all the members offer them the hand of fellowship and love.

The Ramah members were called upon to release with a vote of thanks and appreciation the Branch President, Brother George C. Ganter, and his Counsellors, Brothers Hans Rohde and William Wood Jnr. Brother Norman G. Muir was sustained as the new Branch President and his Counsellors will be Brother Francis Donly and Brother Ted Tewson. These faithful brethren relinquished office and assumed office with the same spirit of willingness to serve the Lord's will.

The Mutual officers have concluded the year's activities by holding parties and special evenings for their members.

One evening was devoted to a demonstration of Christmas parcel wrapping by Sister Erica Ganter, a talk on Christmas in Denmark by Brother Hans Rohde, Christmas in Holland by Sister Signe Smith, and Christmas in Canada by Elder Murray. The closing evening took the form of a Christmas Party to which each member brought a present which was exchanged with others presents. The programme was conducted by Sister Norma Ninow in the absence of her husband, Brother Fred Ninow, the Men's Mutual President, who has been ill.

The hearts of the little Sunday School members were made glad by a visit from Father Christmas at their annual Christmas Tree Party. Presents were distributed and the guests were seated at tables laden with sweets and good things to eat. The Sunday School Superintendent, Brother Vincent Ganter, with Counselors Cecil Ninow and Donovan Donly and Secretary Erica Ganter were gratified with the success of this major social event of the year among the junior members. Our good friend Duncan Brodie was a welcome visitor at the party although he came incognito, and at one time the party became almost too "hot" for him.

The Primary also provided a Christmas Party with presents and plenty of good things to eat, and the games that were organized gave the guests such appetites that a second round of ice cream was thoroughly appreciated. We understand that the kitchen fatigue party is slowly recovering!

The Sunday School Superintendency presented an inspiring, beautiful programme on the 21st December when the theme was the Advent of the Christ Child. There were talks by the junior members, who dealt with the promise of the Saviour, His birth, and incidents from His life. In the evening a Christmas Cantata, "From Manger to Cross," was presented by the Choir under the direction of Brother N. G. Muir. Tableaux were unfolded to coincide with the songs being sung, and these depicted incidents in the life of our Lord. Sister Irma Rutherford portrayed Mary, the Mother, and Brother Hans Rohde represented the Christ blessing little children, His grief at Gethsemane, His carrying

the Cross, and lastly blessing the people after His resurrection. Sister Eunice Fountain very ably accompanied the Choir, and Sister Kitty Smith and Sister Nora Newell arranged the tableaux. The lighting and stage management was capably handled by Brother Tex Smith. The beautiful and impressive rendition was well received by a packed hall.

On Christmas Day the Ramah members gathered to hold an evening Sacrament Service when the principal speaker was Elder Manning, whose inspirational talk and the singing of the Choir and the carol singing of the congregation brought peace and comfort to all those who attended.

We envy and look forward to the return of the Seeman family, the Maarten family and the Milne family, who are away on holiday. We are happy to report that Sister Ann Ganter is on the road to recovery after her illness and operation.

From California we have received news that our old friend, Keith Beswick, has been baptised into the Church by Elder Paul Sharp and is now a Scoutmaster in the Pasadena Stake.

From Wyoming we hear that a daughter, Katherine Millan, has been born to Margaret and Robert Denny. The proud father is at present in England attached to the U.S. Air Force.

Statistics . . .

BIRTHS

MICHAEL GEOFFREY BIBB, son, was born to Cecil and Shiela Harvey Bibb on the 19th of November, 1952 at Pretoria.

ANDREA ROSE HUTTON, daughter, was born to Ralph and Wilhelmina Louw Hutton on the 3rd of August, 1952 at Johannesburg.

IVAN WILLIAM KUKARD, son, was born to Melvin and Annie Roos Kukard on the 13th of November, 1952 at Lobatsi, Bechuanaland.

BARBARA ANNE MAARTENS, daughter, was born to Lionel and Hazel Borthwick Maartens on the 22nd of September, 1952 at Johannesburg.

INGRED HILDAGARD ODENDAAL, daughter, was born to David and Gertruida Viljoen Odendaal, on the 22nd of September, 1952 at Johannesburg.

LORNA STEMMET, daughter, was born to Johan and Gertruida Prins Stemmet on the 21st of October, 1952 at Springs.

BLESSINGS

IRENE CAROLINE VAN ANTWERPEN, the daughter of Daniel and Olive Anderson van Antwerpen, was blessed on the 30th of November, 1952 by Ernest H. Doller, at Port Elizabeth.

INGRED HILDAGARD ODENDAAL, the daughter of David and Gertruida Viljoen Odendaal was blessed on the 30th of November, 1952 by William H. Brummer at the North Western Johannesburg Branch.

ANDREA ROSE HUTTON, the daughter of Ralph and Wilhelmina Louw Hutton, was blessed by Hans E. N. Rohde on the 7th of December, 1952 at Ramah.

BARBARA ANNE MAARTENS, the daughter of Lionel and Hazel Borthwick Maartens was blessed by Edgar E. Seeman on the 7th of December, 1952 at Ramah.

LORNA STEMMET, daughter of Johan and Gertruida Prins Stemmet was blessed by her father, Johan Frederick Stemmet on the 7th of December, 1952 at the Springs Branch.

ANDRE LOTZ, the son of Daniel and Monica

Van Royen Lotz, was blessed by President Thomas Wilson on the 14th of December, 1952 at the Mowbray Branch.

BAPTISMS

JOHN GILBERT KINNEAR, was baptized by Elder R. Glen Sherwood on the 21st of December, 1952 and confirmed on the same day by Elder Richard D. Sampson at the Bulawayo Branch.

RONALD PARKER DUNCAN, was baptized by Elder B. E. Johnson on the 17th of December, 1952 and confirmed on the same day by Izak C. Louw at the Springs Branch.

HILDA ROSALAND WALLACE, was baptized by Elder Don W. Manning on the 17th of December, 1952 and confirmed on the same day by Norman G. Muir at the Ramah Branch.

LORAIN VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, was baptized by Hans E. N. Rohde on the 17th December, 1952, and confirmed on the same day by Elder Don W. Manning at the Ramah Branch.

MARRIAGES

JEAN LOUISE AGNES BEHRENS was married to Erik Bjarne Jens Peter Birk on the 20th of December, 1952 at the Mowbray Branch by President Evan P. Wright.

DEATHS

HARRY THEODRE JUBBER passed away on the 2nd of December, 1952 at East London.

LESLEY JUSTUS VAN ROOYEN, the son of William and Yvonne Smit Van Rooyen, passed away on the 10th of December, 1952.

TRANSFERS

ELDER MELVIN G. STOCKDALE, was transferred from Bloemfontein, O.F.S. to the Transvaal, December 22, 1952 to labour with Elder Kenneth A. Sherman.

APPOINTMENTS

ELDER DONALD M. COLE, was appointed Mission Secretary on the 1st of January, 1953.

ELDER JACK E. DAHL, was appointed Mission Historian and Assoc. Editor of the Cumorah Southern Messenger, on January 1, 1953.

D O e m s

FOR THE NEW YEAR, TWELVE O'CLOCK

*In the most solemn moment,
Of ending and beginning;
Let my thoughts be stark
As January Sky
Unremembering, unforgetting.
Held suspended on a breath
Between a year's birth,
And a year's death.*

*Let my heart be pure as snow,
Cleans as wind from heavens height;
And my new thoughts lightly go,
As sparrows scattered forth in flight.*

*Let my heart be love-warm, holding,
Sacred promise for the year unfolding.*

BY KATHERINE FERNELIUS LARSEN

PRAYER AT THE NEW YEAR

While still the yule log burns, a year is born.

While Christmas candles gleam across the snow,

*A year is new again; the old is done;
And in these days before me I would show
More gratitude, and may I learn to weed
The roots of envy from my heart, and share
More willingly with others. I would be
Less selfish and a little more aware
Of human need for love and sympathy,
For kindly words, and may I learn to see
More of the good in others. I would live
A fuller life, a little less for me.*

*A year is born once more at Christmas time
While humble hearts remember him. I
pray*

*That I, too, shall remember all the year,
And be a Christian truly every day.*

—BY SYLVIA YOUNG

NEW YEAR

*Now as the old year dies,
Let us forget,
The aching bitterness
The sharp regret;*

*The moment when it seemed,
The Heart must break
The emptiness of loss,
The lonely ache.*

*Now as the old year dies
Let us pretend,
The past has really come
To this swift end.*

*And let us hold the faith
Till it is true,
That this hour is the start,
Of a year . . . New!*

—BY CHRISTIE LUND COLES